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# Rural Information Center

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## MADIGAN ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced on February 19 that rural development councils featuring a coordinated economic development partnership between government and private industry will be established in 34 states and two U. S. territories.

"We have been testing this concept in eight pilot states for nearly two years and the success has been tremendous," Madigan said.

"Based on the success of these pilot states, we are expanding the state rural development council program."

Madigan said one example of this success is the Kansas Rural Development Council's work in streamlining the loan and credit application process for federally assisted small business development in the state. Joint federal-state efforts resulted in a standard application form, processing, and credit analysis procedure.

"When fully implemented, this system will save enormous time and money compared to the old system which required small business loan applicants to complete several separate applications and conform to separate credit analyses," Madigan said.

Another example of a state council's success has come in South Carolina, Madigan said, where council members identified a rural area that has economic development potential but lacks a sufficient waste-water treatment program. Federal and state agencies combined their

financial and technical resources to develop a regional water-treatment project.

As chairman of the President's Economic Policy Council Working Group on Rural Development, Madigan has overseen the establishment of the state rural development councils.

"When the President announced his Initiative on Rural America, he made it clear that government and the private sector need to work together to get rural America back on track based on locally identified needs," Madigan said. "The councils are partnerships among business and federal, state and local government designed to address those needs."



The councils, which are established in cooperation with governors in each state, serve as a vehicle for private and public entities to collaborate and develop local solutions for economic development. All federal agencies operating programs in rural areas are represented as council members. In addition, state and local officials serve on the council, and are commonly joined by the private sector, education, health-care and labor representatives.

As with the eight pilot councils, federal agencies, including USDA, will cover 75 percent of the councils' operating costs; non-federal members will cover the remaining 25 percent.

The eight pilot state are Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Oregon, South Carolina, South

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Dakota, Texas and Washington.

Based on progress made in these states, President Bush last October formally invited governors of the remaining states to form councils. Thirty-four state governors and the governors of Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands asked to become part of the rural development council program.

Source: USDA News Release, February 19, 1992 (0175-92)

## NEW RIC PUBLICATIONS

*Crime in Rural America.* Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. 67 citations. January 1992, 14 p.

*Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas.*

Compiled by M. Louise Reynnells. December 1991. 81 p.

*Fee Hunting and Fishing on Private Land.*

Compiled by Thomas P. Shilts. 85 citations. January 1992, 15 p.

*Journals Significant to Rural Development Received at the National Agricultural Library.* Compiled by Dorothy A. Heise. 166 citations. December 1991, 19 p.

*Rural Health Services Funding: A Resource Guide.*

Compiled by Louise Murphy Simmons. December 1991, 33 p.

## FY92 RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

### STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC. SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS

Maryland & District of Columbia  
(8% each) ..... 16%

Texas ..... 6%

North Carolina & Pennsylvania  
(4% each) ..... 8%

California, Colorado, Illinois, Minne-  
sota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Utah,  
Virginia (3% each) ..... 27%

Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia,  
Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, New  
Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota,  
Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington,  
West Virginia, Wisconsin (2% each) ..... 30%

All others (22 states, 2 territories,  
5 foreign countries) ..... 13%

### BREAKDOWN OF RURAL QUESTIONS

Health Services ..... 39%

Economic Viability ..... 36%

Quality of Life/Natural Resources ..... 13%

Local Government Services ..... 10%

Leadership/Community Change ..... 2%

### AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN

State & County Extension Service ..... 18%

Health Care Professionals, State & Local  
Health Offices, Organizations, etc ..... 16%

Individuals ..... 14%

Universities & Other Educational  
Institutions ..... 13%

USDA Officials & Businesses  
(8% each) ..... 16%

Community Development  
Organizations ..... 6%

Local Officials & Libraries (4% each) ..... 8%

Special Interest Groups & State  
Officials (3% each) ..... 6%

Federal Officials (non-USDA) ..... 2%

Congress ..... 1%